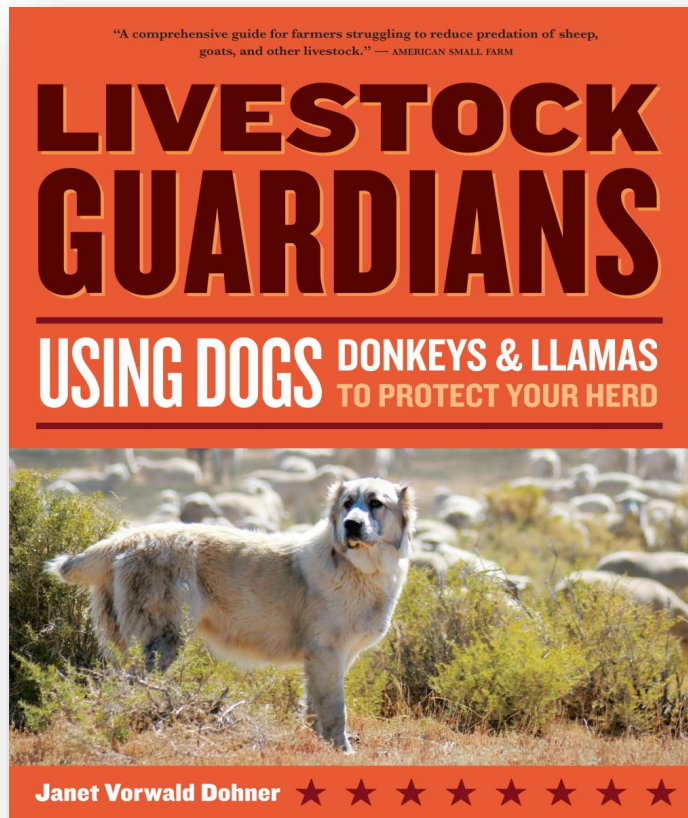


- OCTOBER 18, 2018 -

# Livestock Guardian Animal Overview

## Llamas, Donkeys & Dogs



- PRESENTED BY -  
Jan Dohner

- HOSTED BY -

**FACT**  
Food Animal Concerns Trust

# Introductions



**Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)** is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs.



## **Larissa McKenna**

Humane Farming Program Director

Email: [lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org)

Website: [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer)

FACT's services for livestock and poultry farmers include:

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grants**
- **Conference scholarships**
- **Free webinars**
- **Humane Farming Mentorship Program**

# Our Presenter



Jan Dohner

*Author of *Livestock Guardians: Using Dogs, Donkeys and Llamas to Protect Your Herd & The Encyclopedia of Animal Predators.**

"A comprehensive guide for farmers struggling to reduce predation of sheep, goats, and other livestock." — AMERICAN SMALL FARM

# LIVESTOCK GUARDIANS

**USING DOGS** DONKEYS & LLAMAS  
TO PROTECT YOUR HERD

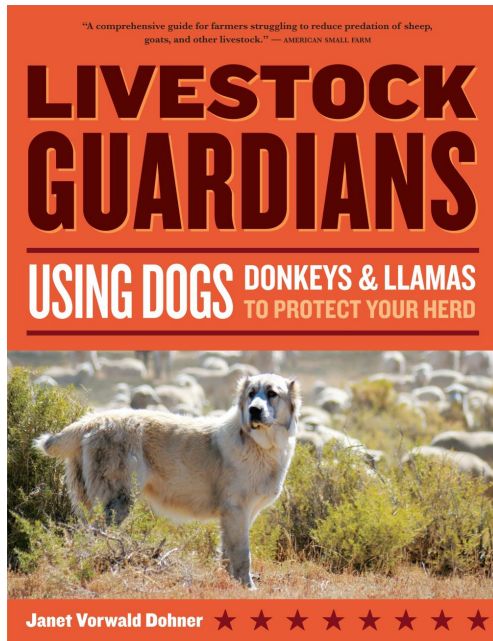


Janet Vorwald Dohner ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Livestock Guardian Animal Overview

Food Animal Concerns Trust

Jan Dohner  
Jandohner.com



# Webinar Overview

- How they work
- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- How to select
- Basic care
- Bringing your guardian animal home

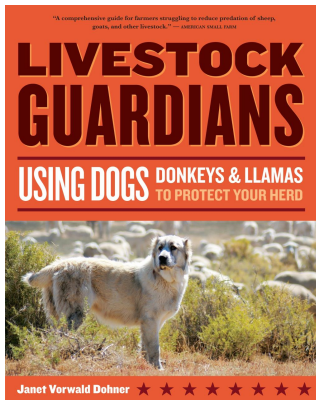
# What is a livestock guardian?



Best choice for my situation?



- LGD breeds
- Llamas
- Donkeys



# Success with Livestock Guardians

- Understand how they work
- Make the right choice for your situation
- Discount the myths and misconceptions
- Provide a good environment
- Use in combination with other deterrents
- Don't commit unless you will enjoy
- Understand not a 'magic bullet'



# Guardian Llamas How They Work





# Advantages

- Naturally social and protective
- No extended training or socialization
- Immediate protection
- Naturally aggressive towards canines
- Similar shelter and food as stock
- Don't challenge fencing or dig
- Not usually a threat to humans
- Quiet
- Long lifetime



# Disadvantages

- Also a prey animal
- Not protective against some predators
- Do not protect family or farm
- Less successful on large pastures, dense vegetation, extreme heat and humidity
- Cannot be used with dogs
- Can be dangerous to humans or stock
- Need specialized care

# How to Select Alertness, Leadership, Weight



# Guardian Llama Care



- Food
- Shelter
- Fences
- Feet
- Teeth
- Fleece
- Medical care



# Bringing Home a Llama

- Be prepared with shelter, fencing, catch pen
- Pen llama with stock in small area for several days
- If stock is very upset, pen next to llama and feed along common fence line
- Don't give llama too much attention
- Monitor birthing and breeding times for first year

# Guardian Donkeys How They Work





# Advantages

- Naturally aggressive to canines
- Territorial
- 4-6 weeks of socialization
- Similar shelter and food as stock
- Don't challenge fencing or dig
- Long lived, inexpensive
- Not usually a threat to humans
- Don't bark





# Disadvantages

- Also a prey animal
- Not protective against some predators
- Danger to dogs
- Do not protect family or farm
- Not effective widely scattered stock, large pastures with dense vegetation or rough terrain, extreme cold and wet
- May bray loudly
- May harass your stock

# How to Select Maturity, Size, Reaction to Dogs



# Guardian Donkey Care



- Food
- Shelter
- Fences
- Feet
- Teeth
- Coat
- Medical care



# Bringing Home a Donkey

- Be prepared with shelter, fencing, farrier, etc
- Minimum 4 to 6 week adjustment period
- Place next to stock in separate enclosure
- Feed along common fence line
- Later, tether with stock or release and monitor
- Increase time together if no issues
- Monitor birthing and breeding times for first year
- If needed, repeat adjustment steps or isolation technique

# Livestock Guardian Dogs How They Work





# Advantages

- Guard a wide variety of stock
- Guard against all predators, including aerial
- Bond to their stock, nurturing behaviors
- Will patrol and mark territory
- Can work very large and rough terrain
- Will work in pairs or packs
- Protect farm and family, alert owners
- Graduated response, self-thinker



# Disadvantages

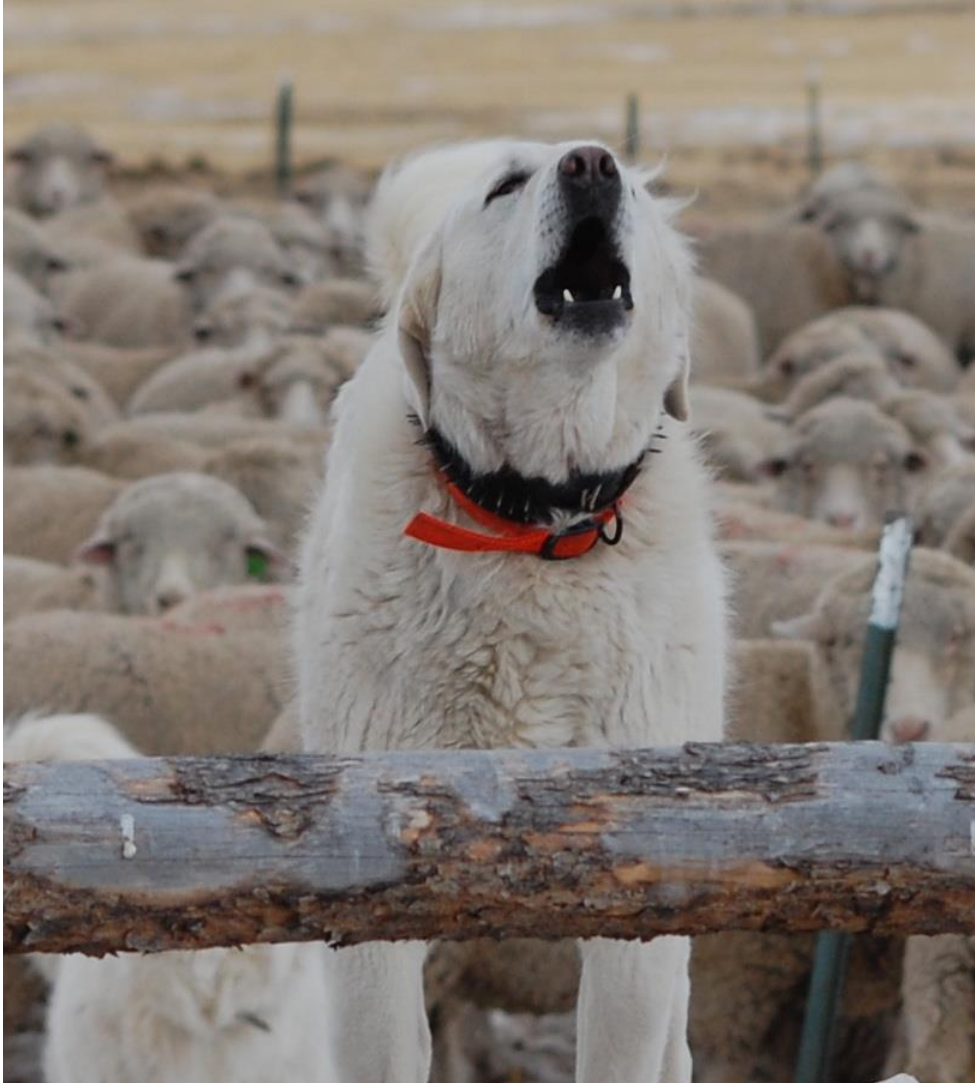
- Expense, slow to mature and train
- Need socialization and supervision
- Need good fencing, will dig
- Bark, especially at night
- Need dog food, specialized care
- Self-thinker
- May be aggressive to strangers or workers
- May be aggressive to other dogs or stock

# How to Select an LGD Attentive, Protective, Trustworthy





# LGD Care

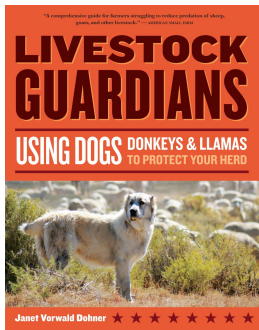


- Food
- Shelter
- Fences
- Coat
- Medical care
- Handling



# Bringing Home an LGD

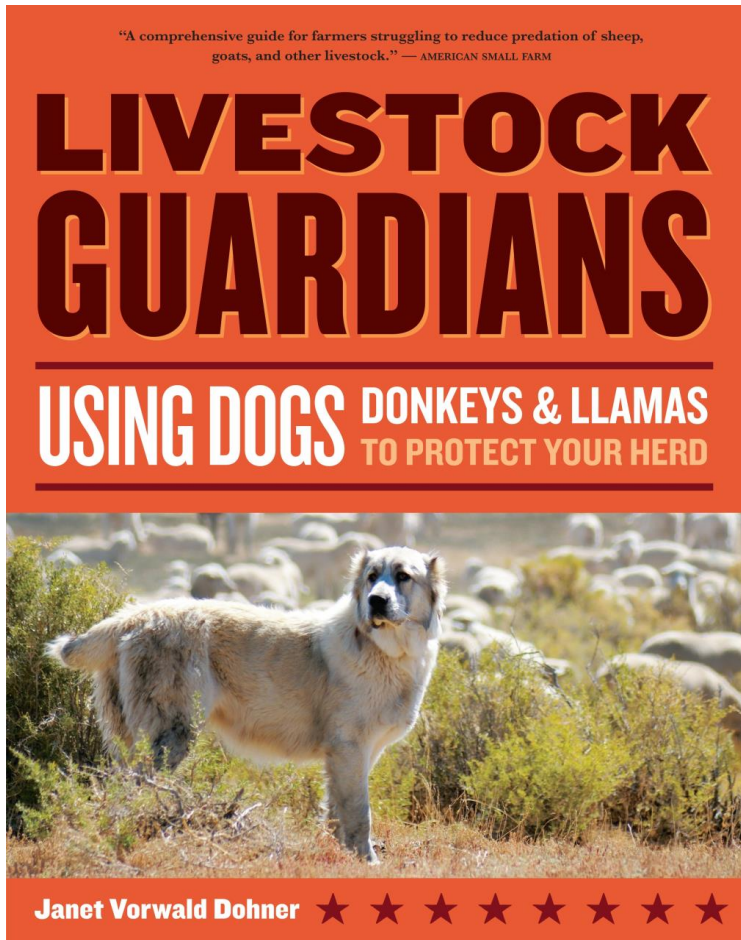
- Be prepared with a safe enclosure
- Keep near or with stock from very beginning
- Lots of attention where dog works
- Basic training and handling
- Don't rush introductions to dogs or stock
- Supervision for 1 to 2 years
- Supervision all new situations such as birthing or breeding time, introducing new stock



# Future Webinars – Focus on LGDs

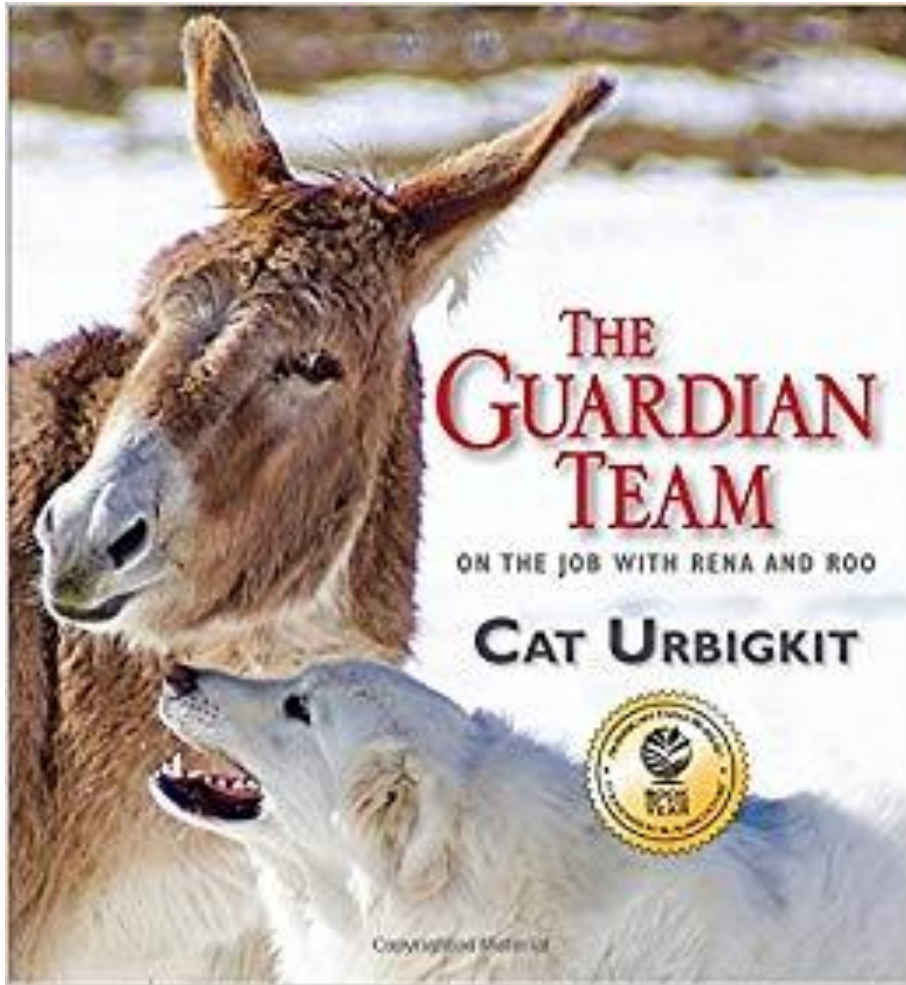
- LGD Part 2: Deeper Dive - Breeds, crossbreeds, how to find a good dog and breeder, puppy selection, identifying good rescue dogs, bringing home new pup or adult, training methods.
- LGD Part 3: Troubleshooting – adolescent behavior issues, reading physical behavior, introducing new dogs, poultry guarding.

# Resources



- **Jandohner.com**  
Articles and posts on all topics discussed
  
- **Facebook group -**  
*Learning About LGDs*

# Photo Credits



- Savvy Girls
- BLM
- J. Dohner
- C. Urbigkit
- *Livestock Guardians,* Storey Publishing

# Questions & Answers

Please type your Q's into the chat bar



Sol Seeker Farm

# Connect with



## Upcoming webinars

- **October 24:** Fund-a-Farmer Grant Info Session
- **November 1:** A Deeper Dive into LGDs (Part 2 of 3)
- **November 8:** Tax Tips for Farmers
- **November 15:** Troubleshooting LGD Behavior (Part 3)
- **December 11:** Direct Marketing Meat & Meat Processing

## Grants, Scholarships, Mentorship & More!

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grant applications are available!**
- **Scholarships accepted on an on-going basis**

Sign up for emails @ [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/)

Join us on social media

